

Additional Security Measures...

Outdoor security lighting left on from dusk to dawn is inexpensive and also helps to deter such crimes as theft, vandalism, and burglary. Many people are now equipping their vehicles with car alarms. In some cases, the value of the vehicle and/or its contents are worth the cost—*shop around!*

You can increase the chances of your stolen property being recovered by recording serial numbers or marking your property with a unique marking.

Preventing The Theft Of Your Vehicle...

- Never leave your car running
- Never leave your keys in the vehicle or the ignition
- Always roll up the windows and lock the doors—even if parked in front of your residence
- Try to park in busy and well-lighted areas
- Always leave just the ignition key with the attendant of parking in a commercial garage or leaving your car in someone else's possession



Reporting Options...

- **911 Emergency** (*Crimes In Progress*)
- **222-3321** Crime Alert
(Can Remain Anonymous)
- 223-1400 Polk County Crime Stoppers
- Text "PCCS plus your message" to CRIMES (274637)

Community Crime Prevention Strategies

Crime in the community can be reduced through five important strategies that *everyone* can help with:

1. **Educate the community about crime.** Support workshops in your school or neighborhood. Plan a special event to emphasize crime prevention.
2. **Take away opportunities for crime to be committed.** Follow safe, common sense procedures when out in the community.
3. **Set a good example for kids, friends, family, and neighbors.** If the residents in your neighborhood see that you are reducing your chances of becoming a victim, they will often learn from your example.
4. **Report crimes and help police make criminals responsible for their actions.** Your willingness to report may keep a criminal from victimizing others.
5. **Build community support with organized efforts.** Work with civic groups, neighborhood associations, PTAs', and church groups.

**West Des Moines Police
Department**

Community Education/Outreach
250 Mills Civic Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Phone: 515-222-3333

**West Des Moines
Police Department**



**Vehicle
Related
Theft**

**"Crime Prevention Is
Everybody's Business"**

**Community Education/
Outreach
222-3333**

www.wdm-ia.com

Vehicle related thefts occur several hundred times a year here in West Des Moines. The popularity of CD players, mobile phones, GPS, IPOD's and expensive sound systems, which are often quickly and easily stolen, has seemed to encourage car prowlers. *You can reduce your risk of becoming the victim of this type of a crime.* Please take a few minutes to read this information and share it with others.

Common Methods Of Entry Into Vehicles...

- Break out a window
- Use a tool to unlock a door
- Crawl through a pickup topper and force open sliding window
- Enter a vehicle parked in an unlocked garage
- Vehicle left unlocked

Most Likely Targets For Theft...

- Vehicles with a visible radar detector, mount, or some type of a visible power cord
- Vehicles containing a briefcase, purse, gym bag, or other property left in plain view
- Vehicles with a visible mobile phone or GPS
- Vehicles left running in an unsecured area



Property Most Often Stolen From Vehicles...

- Gym bags, briefcases, purses, wallets, checkbooks
- GPS
- IPOD or MP3 players
- Jewelry
- Mobile phones
- Auto parts/car batteries
- Sunglasses
- Camera equipment
- Radar detector and power cords
- Radios, CD players, speakers and other stereo equipment
- Hand tools, tool boxes, and power tools



What Do Thieves Do With Your Property?...

Many things can be sold to other thieves or to someone "looking for a deal". Other items can be sold at pawn shops or traded for illegal drugs. Some thieves look for credit cards to steal, and immediately initiate purchases. Some thieves are looking for identification to alter.



This can cause a tremendous amount of inconvenience and hassle for the victim.

The thief's point of view: "Why should I pay for it when I can steal it?"

How Can You Prevent A Theft From Your Vehicle?...

- The biggest deterrent to theft from vehicles is to keep all valuables out of sight and, if possible, in the trunk
- After removing valuables from vehicle—**LOCK IT UP!** By locking the vehicle it will deter thieves to get inside and possibly activate a trunk or hood release
- Always report suspicious activity to law enforcement as soon as possible

Reporting Suspicious Activity To The Police...

Don't think you are "bothering" the police by reporting suspicious activity. Be as specific as possible about your observations. *Remember: It's not your job to prove anything—the job of a responsible citizen is only to report what they observe.*

Here is a list of observations often reported associated with this type of crime:

- Glass breaking—a popping sound
- Someone looking into vehicles or ducking around them
- Someone tampering with or removing parts from a vehicle
- A person carrying tools or property away from an unoccupied vehicle
- Activity that just doesn't look or feel right

Please report all thefts to law enforcement

911 or

WDMPD Non-Emergency Number: [222-3321](tel:222-3321)

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